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California GARDEN

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**NOVEMBER
DECEMBER
1935**

**The Serious Migratory
Waterfowl Problem**

By Bertha H. Fuller

An Interesting Acacia

By K. O. Sessions

**An Attractive Plant For
Southwest Gardens**

By Murray Skinner

The Magazine . . .

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McKee Printing Co. 215 B St., San Diego

THE NOVEMBER MEETING

The next-to-the last Floral association meeting of the old year went off well in November on the usual third Tuesday. Present and future matters were attended to and a number of people got to their feet during the evening and expressed in some of the Noah's ark trees themselves on the subject of removing along the avenidas at the Exposition. Among the speakers were Frank Druggan, Fred Wylie and Miss Kate Sessions. Consensus of opinion seemed to be that some of the acacias were showing their years and should be taken out—with the consent of those concerned.

Mrs. Mary A. Greer, now on the mend from her illness of two months, took the president's chair again and was heartily welcomed. Vice-president McLean very kindly read his annual warning not to pick Toyon berries. By doing this yearly, Mr. McLean serves both the general public, who after all have multitudes of things to remember these days and deserve reminders, and the wild growth. It is a wonderful thing to see a California holly bush burning bright with berries along the roadside, an unsurpassed living ornament, and know that the bush will be unmolested. Everyone who loves plants knows all too well the sick feeling when some beautiful specimen stands mutilated.

A minute of respect was paid to Sydney Hill, association friend and park secretary for years, who died recently, leaving many friends.

December and January meetings

on the third Tuesday of these months will be informative ones. Fred Wylie will speak on barrier shrubs for pool work in December and needs no recommendation whatever after winning the Exposition first prize for gardens with his rockery on the grounds this summer. In January a Japanese lecturer is scheduled to talk on the helps in decoration his native land has to offer. An authentic talk of this kind is most desirable.

Miss Kate Sessions was speaker of the evening in addition to being elected to confer on the park acacia tree problem.

Winter is one of the good times to hear Miss Sessions. The others are spring, summer and fall. She has so many things to suggest for the improvement of this fruitful land. She talked heathers with their lovely winter and spring bonanzas of bloom, repeating the way to care for them, which is to use peat and leaf mold mulches and never manure and to prune them for shape when picking as they never give one another chance. She emphasized pruning acacias immediately after blooming and described the sowing of salpiglossis and mesembryanthemum chinum seeds in the open with a mulch of chaff or something to discourage the birds. She gave away a quantity of the *M. crinum* seeds. It is a lovely little annual mesem that reseeds after being started once. It has portulaca beat a mile for cactus gardens.

Honeysuckles should be nicely pruned in winter so they will look neat next summer, said Miss Sessions, and geraniums and marguerites pruned to leave some green

MORE PLANTS FOR EXPOSITION CACTUS AND SUC- CULENT GARDENS

During the fall months Mrs. Neff Bakkers had on display at the Marston Store a very interesting collection of cacti and other succulents. After the show had terminated the entire lot was given to the Exposition Cactus Garden to add to its permanent collection.

Recently through the courtesy of Mr. J. G. Morley, Superintendent of Parks, the Exposition Finance Committee and the untiring efforts of Miss K. O. Sessions, a truck was secured, the money appropriated and a number of choice cacti and aloes which had been donated were brought from the Los Angeles vicinity to enrich the cactus and aloes gardens in Balboa Park.

The Cactus Exchange of Southern California gave the cactus from their gardens; these were taken to Gilbert H. Fegeler's Cactus Garden in Inglewood, here they were collected by a San Diego city truck. Mr. Wm. Hertrick, Superintendent of the Huntington Gardens, San Marino, gave an assortment of hybrid aloes which were brought back on this same trip.

C. I. Jerabek.

NOTICE

On file and for sale, complete copies of all "California Gardens" magazines.

wood. Prune large branches off the berried shrubs for decoration and leave the little ones to grow. And propagate *salvia leucantha* by slips.

ADA PERRY.

EXPOSITION CACTUS GARDEN

By K. O. SESSIONS

The Cactus Garden in the Exposition has received a generous collection of named plants from the Cactus Exchange Club of Southern California, and the Agave and Aloe garden in Balboa Park has been given a fine lot of hybrid aloes by Mr. William Hertrick, Superintendent of the Huntington Botanic Gardens. Mr. Hertrick raised these hybrid aloes and they will be interesting for their foliage variations as well as their flowers.

The aloe will certainly become a very popular plant for this city as the summer bloomers are increasing in the collection and will become better known. They are sensitive to cold and Balboa Park is an excellent location to establish this South African plant.

The aloe does not have spines like the cactus but fleshy pointed growths on the edge of its fleshy leaves and a few varieties are perfectly smooth. The flowers are generally in reds with orange tints, but very variable. A few are decidedly yellow in different shades. The flowers last well and could be shipped to the east during the winter season, as they last remarkably well when cut. The climbing or trailing variety, *Aloe ciliaris*, bears abundantly an attractive flower for cutting six to ten inches long and is shipped to the Paris and London markets from Spain and southern France during the winter season. The Misses Schweider garden has excellent specimens over the wall by the front gate entrance. This variety grows so readily from cuttings that it should be more generously planted and become very popular because it requires so little care. Most of the aloes produce offshoots about the base of the plant in abundance. Certain varieties will make large and handsome hedges and the very small growing sorts are good as pot plants and for the rock garden or rock wall.

Four Hedges . . .

By CLARE LEIGHTON

. . . A Review by Lester Rountree

As you may have noticed, there seems to be a recrudescence of English gardening books. And now here is Clare Leighton's "Four Hedges."

Clare Leighton and her husband live in a garden on a wind-swept slope of the Chiltern Hills, in the southern part of England. It is not an old garden; from its very beginning they have made it themselves. They planted a little orchard in the wild mullein-spread field; down the middle of it they put a path and under the trees they "flung fans of daffodils." And then within the four beech hedges they made the half-acre garden.

"Ours is an ordinary garden" is the opening sentence, ("Four Hedges," Macmillan, \$3.00), and in the book is chronicled the little intimate things which from day to day attend the making of an ordinary garden:—the fight with winds and weeds and worms, the struggle to keep the cultivated land from going back.

You find here the personal workings of the life led by two sensitive, imaginative people in a garden which is watched over with care and affection. Every homely detail is chronicled—those casual incidents which are new and amusing to the gardening novice, but which later lose their freshness and are swamped under the wave of mundane chores which attend the life cycle of any garden. Mrs. Leighton has a tremendous capacity for seeing the beauty in little things and in forms and textures.

It is the story of the experience of any gardener who begins his work with the full use of his unblunted senses. The gradual hardening of one's heart toward self-sows, the first dish of green peas, the beginner's attitude toward manure, the first plants to be given away ("It is another great moment when for the first time one can give

away plants"), the effort to find the dividing line between beauty and utility, the attempt to work with gloves on and the inevitable discarding of them ("Throwing them off and with them the restraints and respectabilities of my recent existence, I am at last one with my garden, and I am happy.")

"Four Hedges" is one of those books which, once begun, must be read to the end. It is well done throughout. It is gratifying to the sight and pleasant to the touch. It has the unity of result achieved when text and illustrations are done by the same hand.

For Clare Leighton has done the eighty-eight wood engravings which illustrate the book and it is their satisfying forthrightness and beauty which make the volume worth twice the money paid for it. Here she has not only depicted the beauty of flowers but has also glorified the loveliness of the little things to which long familiarity has brought indifference, or contempt. She shows us the detailed loveliness of poppy seed-pods, of grasshoppers, brussels sprouts, earthworms, snails and moths and toads. There are woodcuts (such perfect balancing of black and white and gray) of the author picking strawberries while Anne holds back the covering net, of the husband mowing the orchard grass or digging potatoes, "the big treasure hunt of the year."

It is not often that the temptation to quote from a book is so strong. There is that succinct remark about the gardener's craving for large flowers. "It is the shadow that the annual flower show throws before it" and that bit of enlightenment for rock gardeners. "The care for miniature plants is said by some caustic psychologists to satisfy a thwarted maternal instinct."

Yes, I can think of many less worthy Christmas presents than "Four Hedges."

The Serious Migratory Waterfowl Problem . . .

By BERTHA H. FULLER

... *Extinction of Interesting and Valuable Wildlife Threatened*

Undoubtedly most of us have always looked upon the various commissions called by different names, touching natural resources, as commissions representing everybody—that is, the “general public”; and have always thought these commissions gave protection and care and study to the wild life in the interests of the public as a whole. Publicity within the last few years has been given in the public press explaining why one peculiar natural resource has reached the dreadful predicament it has—and on all sides one reads the many causes for this migratory waterfowl problem.

From this unusual publicity the fact comes out that, for years, those interested in the destruction of these birds have been allowed legally to build up entrenchments against the birds, and between them and the general public, so that it is now unblushingly admitted by those in authority—that is, the many fish and game commissions throughout the nation—that the migratory waterbirds no longer belong to the “general public” except in theory. The men behind the guns have taken them over—one cannot say bought them over, as the real owners, the “general public”, have never received one cent for them—only a very, very small percentage of citizens have benefitted either directly or indirectly by their deaths. A high estimate would be three per cent of the population of the country benefitted in any way by the hunting practices of this nation—this percentage includes the ranchers who till drained swamp lands, the grain men who sell tons of feed to toll the birds to their deaths, the gun and ammunition makers who back the determination of sportsmen to keep the birds on an open season and the sporting goods dealers who simply carry stock because there continues to be a demand for it—this is not sufficient percentage to be considered the “general public”, nor the real

owners of the birds.

The small groups of men, appointed politically, during these many years—with hardly a naturalist's name on the list—have so tied up the beautiful and useful wild life with guns and ammunition that now, really, there does not seem to be any way out of the intricate labyrinth of “interests” without even further destruction of the only interest these men should have had all these years: ducks and geese.

Quoting from a letter received from Mr. J. S. Hunter, in charge of refuges in this state: “We do not favor an entire closed season on waterfowl. We believe in California it would do more to injure conditions than to better them. We realize that while the legitimate sportsman has come in for a great deal of criticism in the past, that the only money available for the enforcement of the game laws has been furnished by him through the hunting license fees, and for the enforcement of the law against himself. Outside of an adequate appropriation by Congress for the enforcement of the Federal laws, this is a fact that cannot be disputed.

“If it had not been for the recclamation, drouth, and duck diseases we do not believe that duck conditions would have been anywhere near as deplorable if they had only been affected by legitimate hunting.

“In the great interior valleys of California most of the natural marsh that formerly extended practically from Red Bluff to Bakersfield has been drained and turned into agricultural lands. The only exceptions are where interested individuals and clubs have held somewhere near the original conditions and maintained shooting areas. At the end of our dry summers the only water available for ducks is that which they find in the rice fields and in areas held by clubs. Rice fields under present conditions are rather well drained by the latter part of

September, and unless we have early rains, the migrating hosts would find very poor conditions, and would be forced to work into the southern area below the California line, where they receive no protection.

“It costs a great deal of money to maintain duck waters. Pumping charges run from three to five dollars per acre and ditch water almost as much. On the whole, the average cost to club ducks has been not far from five dollars per bird. The cost of maintaining grounds without any shooting would be great, and most clubmen would regard it as prohibitive. The loss of revenue to our department would probably not be great, but the loss to the Federal government would be complete, and Congress has not—and probably will not—make a direct appropriation.”

To the question asked Mr. Hunter “What water acreage is now covered by clubs, more or less private?” he answered: “It is impossible to give you anywhere near the exact figures as to amount of water acres of clubs. It was formerly somewhere near 500,000 acres, but on account of the depression and other conditions, we doubt whether there are over 200,000 acres of club grounds”.

“What acreage is there left for the use of the general public?”

“In years when we have early rains there is a great deal of open land for the unattached hunter, but in dry years he will not find much hunting territory in the central valleys, and other portions of the state he will not be hindered.”

About ten thousand acres of land have already been purchased for duck refuge and another eleven thousand acres are in the course of being purchased. (San Diego County has been fortunate enough to get a refuge to protect the brant on Mission Bay). Through these acreages were purchased without one thought of the ownership of ducks and geese but only the convenience of keeping a supply for the hunters, still, the “general public,” does now own some 21,000 acres of duck land, together with the mud puddles when it rains. The privileged clubmen control some 200,000 acres.

Walter R. Welch, writing in "California Fish and Game", the official bulletin of the California Fish and Game Commission, July, 1931, tells a tale of early hunting. If you love horror tales read it—or if you have a nose for facts and can stand unpleasantness in order to get fundamental facts read it. "It was not until about 1892 that there was any perceptible decrease in the supply of game. About that time we began to notice that the supply of all our game was fast diminishing, and that it was becoming scarce." Mr. Welch had been a "market shooter" since 1879. He was one of those taking heavy toll of game who early saw the need of conservation measures.

1901 saw the first game convention in the state—with two representatives from each county supposed to be in attendance. The bag limit was fixed at 3 male deer, 50 ducks, 50 doves, 25 snipe, 25 quail, prohibited sale of quail, deer meat and hides, and the killing of does or fawns, or the possession of any deer hide with the evidence of sex removed.

There has never been one increase in the game population of this, nor any other state, since that time—nothing except a steady march downhill in numbers!

And it is nothing unusual to read that the hunter now considers himself the guardian of the gamebirds—because he buys licenses and pays the piper, so to speak. Against this idea one may quote figures given in this same number of the "Fish and Game" by W. L. McAtee, of the Bureau of Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture. He says: "Wild life conservation is worth one billion dollars a year to this country"—made his estimate on the basis of the following items:

Meat and fur production, about	\$150,000,000
Destruction of harmful insects by birds.....	350,000,000
Production of fish.....	15,000,000
Hunters' expenditures	160,000,000
Hunters' license fees..	9,000,000
Share of general tourists' expenditures credited to the drawing power of wild life.....	252,000,000
Birds save \$350,000,000 worth of	

crops and tourists wishing only to see wild life spend \$252,000,00, making a direct capital ownership in wild life by the "general public" at least \$602,000,000 to that of those who hunt \$334,000,000, leaving out entirely the fish and meat and fur figures since some of this may be legitimately from the surplus while some of it undeniably is wholly destructive to the wild life—fur bearing mammal, as well as fish, supply is closely following the downhill slide of the deer and bird gamelife.

Congress passed the Duck Stamp bill in 1934—every hunter is supposed to buy this stamp for one dollar at the local postoffice. This will bring into the Biological Survey money with which to purchase waterlands for refuges for the birds. Some \$615,000 was received from this source last year—but about \$150,000 had to go to the printing and postoffice departments—the birds finally got about \$460,000. They surely are being bled down to the last dollar for their protection!

California hunters bought some 37,000 of these duck stamps.

The report of the U. S. Biological Survey on "The Water Fowl Situation for 1934-35" dated June 15, 1935, has the most recent data on the duck situation and it will pay any bird lover, or anyone interested in a great natural resource, to write for this report and carefully peruse it.

Special legislation on the part of Congress made it possible for the "general public" to do something directly for these interesting and intelligent birds when it passed the law allowing non-hunters to purchase the duck stamp without having a hunting license. Surely one dollar sent to Washington to prove to Jay N. Darling, the present valuable chief of the Survey, that the "general public" is standing back of him in his effort to withstand the "interests" now in control of our ducks and geese will not be too much for us to send—the stamps are beautiful and unique—never before in the history of the world has a stamp been made to sell to hunters to protect what they seek to kill—philatelists surely will want one of these stamps and every nature lover should have one to prove his love is deep and sincere. These

inviolate refuges will be remote from Californians in this part of the world, perhaps, but we may all get to visit them sometime as we now plan to visit remote national parks.

Los Angeles County is allowing to slip from its grasp one of the most valuable spots for migratory waterfowl in the State, so far as the general public is concerned—the Playa Del Rey marshes. Recently the bird authority of the National Audubon wrote of the birds in Los Angeles County: "It is an amazing list that could probably not be duplicated anywhere else. It is an eye-opener, and gives some of us easterners something to live for—our first trip to the west coast." And some 90 species of these Los Angeles County birds may be seen at this one spot—in danger of drainage after the public funds have made it somewhat safer for residential property by ditching it for flood control. Plans for a refuge there as one of the "sights" should by all means be included in the flood control plans—and included in the recreation policy of the County.

No doubt San Diego County could almost duplicate the list of birds—but it has no place the general observer may go to see them, though Mission Bay does offer refuge to some of them during the winter especially, but the little least tern is being driven out entirely by development of the sandy lagoons at the mouths of the small streams. They are resident birds and it will be interesting to know where they seek refuge from the engineer and his works.

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An Interesting Acacia . . .

By K. O. SESSIONS

. . . *Acacia Pendula* Rivals *Famous Silver Tree*

Acacia pendula is conspicuous for its very silvery and drooping foliage which its specific name indicates. There are a few plants about the city and in La Jolla. The finest specimen is a group of four plants in Presidio Park on the north and lower side of the road half way down. The pendulous branches are four to six feet long and very full of foliage and though somewhat dusty, its fine color is conspicuous at the top.

An interesting fact about this acacia is its absence of flowers. None have been observed on any of the mature specimens in the city. A question regarding this fact sent to Mr. E. O. Orpet of Santa Barbara brought the answer that the tree is said to flower only once in five years at its home, Australia. The first tree I saw was at Santa Barbara some twenty-five years ago and it had some flowers but not conspicuous.

Recently I observed a plant at La Jolla that was much bent and disfigured, had been seriously neglected and poorly staked, but was very full of a thrifty and silvery new growth. I trimmed, restaked and retied it

and while at work found a small bunch of ripe seed pods, from which I secured 12 seeds. They are a light brown in color, flat and very round, about 3/16 of an inch in diameter and are unlike every other acacia seed that I know both in shape and color.

It is a general well known fact that a plant that is injured or starved will often produce flowers to give some seed, as though making a struggle to perpetuate itself.

Also I have found a small plant growing among other plants near the one tree in my own garden and it certainly is a seedling from this one tree, but I had never observed a blossom.

The foliage is so individual in color quite equal to the famous silver tree in its silky whiteness. It keeps well in water and even dries well. It could become a useful foliage for florists, for a silver wedding decoration, would look well planted near a pool.

Mr. E. O. Orpet of Santa Barbara writes that the seed is imported from Australia and the little plants are very delicate, not robust like most of the acacias in general.

LA JOLLA

Since 1930 another meaning has been offered for the word "La Jolla" which it is hoped other researchers of facts may confirm.

La Jolla is assumed to be a word evolved at the San Diego Mission de Alcalá under the direction of Fra Junipero Serra, from the Indians, word for a native village or park-like site.

The Indian pronounces La Jolla—La Wold—which has an anglo saxon sound. It is assumed that they may have acquired this word from a

stray anglo saxon who lived there around La Jolla. He might have been a sailor or a deserter or an escaped prisoner from some vessel between the time of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo in 1542 and the coming of the Spaniards in 1769. The land about the Oceanographic Institute is a park-like location that could please a stray white man who called it the "Wold" meaning a park.

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slow,

Dignified, slimly tail;
Now they are striving (like naughty
girls

In short ruffled dresses and flying
curls)

To peep o'er the garden wall.

See how they flutter and nod their
heads,

Waving gay hands to the flower
beds,

Answering the merry call
Of velvet clad pansies and mignon-
ette,

Marigolds, laughing, and shy violet,
Sweet scented, though fairly small.

With eyes of bright yellow they gaze
direct,

And stand at attention, primly erect,
Too well bred to lazily loll.

Gentlefolk, true, of the garden wide,
Graciously sweet in their family
pride,

A joy for the days of fall.

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AN ILLUSTRATED MANUAL OF PACIFIC COAST TREES

By Howard E. McMinn, Professor of Botany in Mills College, and Evelyn Maino.

With lists of trees recommended for various uses on the Pacific Coast

By H. W. Shepherd,

Associate Professor of Landscape Design in the University of California.

(University of California Press, Berkeley, 1935; \$3.50)

A convenient handbook of the trees has long been needed for this Pacific Coast of ours, and this beautifully executed little volume is sure to meet with an enthusiastic reception. It is offered in the style of the conventional manual of botany, with keys, glossaries, and a generous array of helpful and easily understood illustrations derived from both pen and camera. The inclusion of cultivated species as well as native ones not only greatly amplifies the book itself, but renders it incomparably more utilitarian from the standpoint of the ordinary gardener. It would be too much to demand absolute completeness of such a work, and the stress is therefore upon those species which the authors feel are reasonably likely to be encountered. However, here in the southern part of the state, the last few years have seen the introduction of a multitude of interesting trees, which one is meeting with more and more, especially through the activities of such progressive plantmen as Hugh Evans of Santa Monica, the Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens of Pasadena, Miss Kate Sessions of San Diego, and the Armstrong Nurseries of Ontario. For many of these newer things one must necessarily look through the book in vain. Some uncommon species omitted from the keys and descriptive portions of the book find mention in a list at the back, but even here more are left out than put in, and not all strictly rare types either.

So many of California's lovely endemics are not seen as they should be in gardens that we may hope their exposition squarely alongside the exotics in this manual will show that they are far from shaming their company and

The Herbaceous Garden . . .

By WILLIAM ROBINSON

. . . A Review by Lester Rountree

Those who keep a finger on the rather erratic pulse of gardening trends have felt before now an awakening interest in herbaceous borders. This, one of the earliest patterns of gardening, seems to be a dropped stitch in our uneven horticultural advance. To Old World and even to eastern states gardeners the perennial border is as requisite a step in garden development as practising scales is to a musician or learning parts to an actor.

Several present-day gardening books are drawing our attention to this gap in our arrangements, and up and down the coast the perennial border is beginning to take its place in our planting plans. Not the stiff and stodgy borders of thirty years ago, but modified forms befitting our climate's tendencies to unduly deter or to over-encourage, as the case may be.

Lady Martineau, whose name is familiar to most gardeners, has just done over her valuable volume

will lead horticulturists toward that wider appreciation of them which they so fully deserve.

Many will be glad to find that the Latin names are conveniently provided with accent marks to aid in their pronunciation, but we note that quite a few of these differ from the recommendations of other authors. The Latin rules of accent are simple and definite enough so that it would seem not too much to expect the various authorities in English botany to arrive at a greater unanimity in applying them than they as yet have accomplished.

Professor Shepherd's varied lists form a very valuable feature. There are many categories, some of which, notably the one for autumn color, could be extended still more with considerable profit to the user. The publishers are to be commended for the serviceable flexible binding with which the book is provided, as well as for the excellent press work.

S. S. B.

"The Herbaceous Border." So up-to-date has she made it that it can hardly be recognized as the same book. But the introduction to the first edition remains unchanged and probably always will, for it is by that revered dean of gardens,—William Robinson. And it is as characteristic a bit as he ever wrote.

The pictures in "The Herbaceous Garden" (Charles Scribner's Sons, \$3.75) are fascinating. They give us peeps into some of England's most famous gardens and suggest endless possibilities for appropriate design. Preceding the index there are some pages which should be referred to especially early and often. Here is a splendid plan for a very long perennial border, sowing tables for annuals and biennials and a most interestingly and informatively annotated alphabetical list of perennials.

Two chapters I especially like,—"One-colour Gardens" and "The Massing of Distinct Species." The ideas in them are specifics against that unfortunate spottiness which makes many a well-grown planting a trial to behold. We need not necessarily employ just those particular species which Lady Martineau mentions, but we could with profit adopt many of the principles which will help to make gardens out of front and back-yards.

I am glad Lady Martineau has given space to *Nomocharis*. There is no reason why we cannot grow these lovely things in California. The Botanic Garden at the University of California is showing us how. And every little while cultural information about them drifts into the current horticultural magazines. Indeed, *Nomocharis* has already been flowered in one private Berkeley Garden.

And while we might just as well skip the section about *meconopsis*, it won't hurt us a bit to concentrate on the chapters on design, color, the mixed border and those two indispensables, annuals and bulbs.

An Attractive Plant For Southwest Gardens

By MURRAY SKINNER

. . . *Guamoclit Lobata* a Little Known Plant

An interesting plant (not too well known) now blooming in the southwest is the annual, climbing vine, given by H. D. House in Bailey's Encyclopedia as *Quamoclit lobata* (*Mina lobata* Llav. and Lex.) It is a member of the morning glory family, but only a botanist, or botanical research, would identify it as such.

The plant grows readily from seed sown in the open ground as soon as it becomes thoroughly warmed in the spring (or in pots, for transplanting, if earlier results are desired), and it reaches a height during its growing period of from 15 to 20 feet, clambering up any convenient support by means of twining, as it produces no tendrils.

The vine stem has a wiry character, neither softly succulent nor firmly woody, and more or less continuously red-brown in color. The leaves, grown on short individual stems or pedicels, are heart-shaped at their base, with three distinct lobes, and often two more indicated by slight indentations. The lobes are not cut entirely to the base, and the center one is much the longest, while the color is gray-green, not brilliant green.

The flowers, one inch or less in

length, are produced on stems varying from two to six inches long, usually dividing once, the blossoms appearing beyond the point of division. Each flower, set in a small, tight cup or calyx, grows on an individual pedicel. The green calyx segments clasp the base of the corolla tightly, with long slender red tips extending up the outside of the yellow petals, much like the prongs of a jewel setting.

The flowers are crimson at first, but later become yellow, fading to straw color, though the tips remain crimson almost to the last minute of the blossom's life. In shape they are much like a bag drawn together at the top, but eventually the tips of the petals expand to allow the stamens and style to protrude. This bag shape is one of the distinguishing features of this plant.

A rather loose growing vine, this is an excellent bloomer and especially acceptable as cut flowers, the blossoms holding on easily for a week or more, the vine even seeming to continue to grow, while the tips readily twine about the handle of a vase or basket. It is odd that this plant is not more common in local gardens.

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AMERICAN FERNS

By Edith A. Roberts & Julia R. Lawrence.

(The Macmillan Co., N. Y., 1935; \$2.50)

This is a book for him who loves ferns, whether in the wild or in the garden. It is furthermore a book beyond criticism at our hands except for two points—it ought to be much larger, and it certainly would be if it at all fulfilled the too inclusive promise of its title. It is rather too common a fault of American books, and in other fields as well as in horticulture, that they are prone to claim too much in the headpiece. So our second criticism is that the title would more accurately read "Ferns of Northeast America." Sixty kinds are treated in the book, but they are all those inhabiting the circumscribed region covered by Gray's well known Manual. On the other hand out of some 43 species and varieties recognized as native to Southern California in the recent handbook by Professor Munz, hardly half a dozen find mention in this book on "American" ferns.

Fortunately the most original and interesting parts of the book are little affected by this circumstance. The directions for propagating ferns from spores are more complete than we happen to have elsewhere countered anywhere else, while they seem eminently practicable for anyone whomsoever possessed of a reasonable modicum of patience, and are invitingly written enough to start us all agog with it. The horticultural uses of ferns are well dealt with from driveways to rock-walls and terrariums. There is an excellent key enabling quick identification of any fern discussed at any time of year. The elaborate germination and plant association tables are of tremendous practical value to the grower and represent much patient labor. Finally the photographic illustrations are many and the majority of them very beautiful.

POINSETTIAS

The editor has received word from Mr. Pete W. Ross of 3968 Park boulevard that his white and pink poinsettias are again very beautiful. Visitors are cordially welcome to this growing display of poinsettia novelties.

Question Box . . .

By R. R. McLEAN

. . . Worms Stripping Leaves From Genistas

QUESTION: Worms are stripping the leaves from two large genistas. Have tried several sprays but without much result. Will you suggest a remedy?

A. C.

ANSWER: Many home gardeners have found the genista caterpillar difficult of control. Under some conditions arsenical sprays have been quite satisfactory, but under others these materials have failed to hold the worms in check. Sprays containing pyrethrum extract or rotenone (from derris root), or both, are very effective. Several if not all the fly sprays on the market contain these materials. One gardener told the writer that after everything else had failed, he secured complete control by using one of the advertised brands of fly spray against this worm. It is entirely possible, however, that some of the previous treatments this man had given his genistas also had their effect in controlling the worms. An arsenical, such as arsenate of lead, combined with pyrethrum extract, is probably the best combination spray for the genista worm. Use two ounces of acid arsenate of lead, powdered, to four gallons of water and add one-quarter ounce of pyrethrum extract, such as Evergreen. If basic (neutral) arsenate of lead is used instead of the acid, use about one-quarter more.

Acid or standard arsenate of lead is stronger than the basic or neutral, but is more apt to injure foliage of plants, hence the usual recommendation is to get the latter when possible.

Professor H. J. Quayle, of the Citrus Experiment Station at Riverside, makes the following recommendations also: "Application of Cryolite, using four to six tablespoons to the gallon of water, has proved successful in destroying the caterpillars. A second spraying may be necessary after an interval of two or three weeks. Cryolite may also be used as a dust containing about 30 percent Cryolite. The dust leaves the shrubs very white, which is

objectionable on the part of some persons and for this reason spraying is preferred. Applications of sprays composed of three pounds of powdered lead arsenate to 100 gallons of water was found not to be effective in controlling the pest."

QUESTION: I have found quite a large amount of white cottony material in the soil around certain plants. I have not been able to find any insects there but think there must surely have been some. Do you know what this may have been and if anything should be done about it?

P. L. M.

ANSWER: Probably the cottony webs were the hatched out egg sacs of certain mealybugs. Some mealybugs feed on the aerial parts of plants and some on the roots, while occasionally there are those feeding on both aerial parts and roots. The two principal mealybugs inhabiting the soil are one known as the ground mealybug, attacking the roots of many plants including grasses, chrysanthemums, daisies, larkspurs, marguerites, petunias, etc., and another called the solanum mealybug, infesting the roots of potatoes, tomatoes, asters, pansies and certain other solanaceous garden plants and weeds.

The matter of control, when control seems to be necessary, is not very easy due to the difficulty of applying any insecticide strong enough to kill the insects without injuring the plant roots at the same time. Mealybugs, both aerial and root forms are protected by a white cottony or waxy secretion which readily sheds. Some success may follow the digging in of pyrethrum powder and tobacco dust, mixed half and half, around the roots of affected plants and then irrigating well. Kerosene or distillate emulsions poured around the roots will also be of some benefit, but are more apt to be injurious to plant roots than is the pyrethrum powder—tobacco dust combination.

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